



Read to a Child

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Dear Friend of Read to a Child:

2023 was another challenging, yet successful year for Read to a Child as the organization, similar to the children we serve, continued to rebound from the effects of the pandemic. The Read Aloud Mentoring Program was again a truly hybrid program with some volunteer reading mentors participating in-person and others via Zoom. However, while in 2022 78% of our mentors participated virtually, in 2023 in-person participation surpassed virtual 55% to 45% as more mentors returned to the office. Once again though, year-end evaluation results indicated that both models were equally successful in improving the literacy and socio-emotional skills of children in the program.

In 2023, program staff continued to master the art of the hybrid program model. Some staff members worked within schools, escorting children to their mentor in a safe reading space filled with books and some managed the program on Zoom, greeting all virtual mentors and students, providing access to electronic books shared on screen, and checking in to ensure all sessions were running smoothly. Some of our staff members managed both models having mastered all aspects of our program while becoming de facto IT experts as well as specialists in time management. A huge thank you to the program staff across the country who are truly the face of Read to a Child.

Due to our embrace of virtual mentorship and its resultant utilization of technology we have again sought grants to provide Chromebooks, headsets and in-school Wi-Fi access to every reading pair in our program that requires them. Another thank you, this time to Fidelity Investments, for providing us with a \$25K grant to cover many of our technology purchases during the past school year. As we continue to grow the Read Aloud Mentoring Program back to our pre-pandemic numbers and beyond, we have also continued to maintain healthy financial and cash positions. All of this was accomplished by a truly amazing group of colleagues, along with support from 50 inspiring members of our national and regional boards. Our success was also due to the support of government, corporate, foundation and individual donors who, in many cases, increased their support.

And finally, a special note of gratitude, to our nearly 1,000 volunteer reading mentors across the country. Your dedication of time and generosity of spirit is truly humbling and is at the heart of Read to a Child's success. Please read through this annual report to see some highlights of the hard work supporting children from under-resourced communities across the country, some of the impressive outcomes for children in our programs, and to join us in thanking our incredible supporters.

Staff Leadership

Paul Lamoureux
Chief Executive Officer

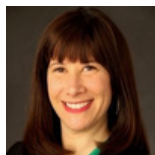
Kristen Baxter
Vice President of
Development

Kaela Mento
National Vice President,
Program Management

Beth Putnam
Chief Financial Officer

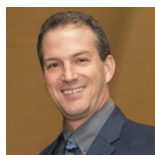
Lily Andrews
Greater Hartford
Executive Director

Gloria Jolley
Greater Los Angeles
Executive Director



Julie Solomon

Julie Solomon (National Board Chair)



Paul Lamoureux

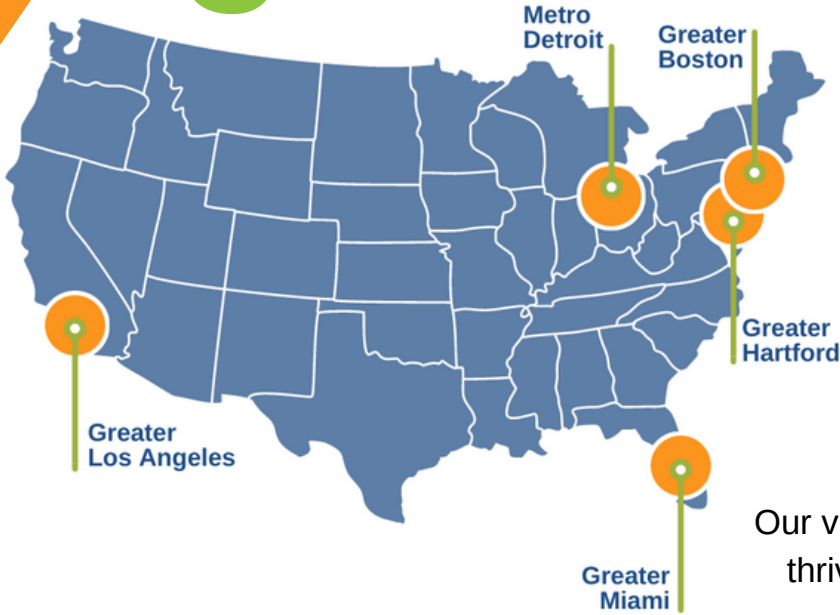
Paul Lamoureux (CEO)





Read to a Child

5 REGIONS



Mission

Our mission is to foster a love of reading, improve literacy skills, and support socio-emotional well-being in students from under-resourced communities.

Vision

Our vision is that every child has the opportunity to thrive in school and beyond through inspirational mentoring and read aloud experiences.

About RAMP

Research shows that reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for eventual success in reading, a key factor for success in school, work, and life. Read to a Child's Read Aloud Mentoring Program (RAMP) utilizes over one thousand volunteer reading mentors who read regularly to elementary students at under-resourced schools in the greater metro areas of Boston, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, and Miami.



2023: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



The Read Aloud Mentoring Program continues to be a hybrid program, offering volunteers the opportunity to participate either in-person or virtually. Our virtual platform continues to offer flexibility and convenience for volunteers, and has shown to be equally effective in student evaluations. As Read to a Child continues to meet our volunteers where they are, we are proud to continue offering inspirational mentoring and read aloud experiences to children from under-resourced communities in schools and virtually.

100%



Four-Star Charity

Platinum
Transparency
2023

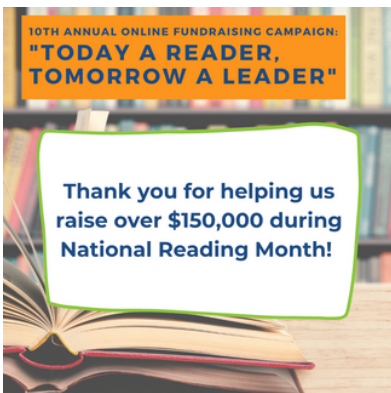
Candid.

Read to a Child was rated a 4 out of 4 star charity, with a 100% score on Charity Navigator this year. With this rating, donors can give to Read to a Child with confidence, knowing the funds you give will align with your values.

Read to a Child earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency with GuideStar from Candid. Read to a Child provided Candid with a voluminous amount of data to be completely transparent about how we strive to achieve our mission.



On November 28, 2022, all five regions of Read to a Child came together to host a new virtual event: A Week of Inspiration, which featured a Holiday Marketplace. Each day of the week, an inspirational video was shared featuring staff, students, school administrators, and volunteers. During this week of fundraising, we raised over \$200,000 to support the growth of our Read Aloud Mentoring Program nationwide!



Each March, Read to a Child celebrates National Reading Month with our Annual Online Fundraising Campaign. This year, Read to a Child hosted the 10th Annual Campaign: *Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader*. With generous contributions from supporters nationwide, we raised more than \$150,000 for the Read Aloud Mentoring Program!

PROGRAM IMPACT

2023 READ ALOUD MENTORING PROGRAM

ACCORDING TO THEIR TEACHERS,

95%

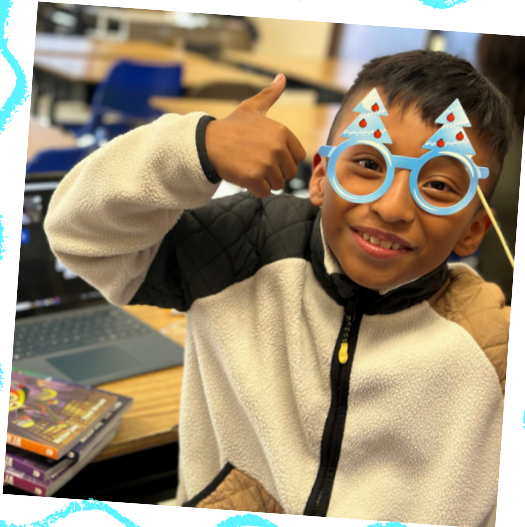
of our students improved in **ENTHUSIASM FOR BOOKS AND READING** since the start of the program year

95%

of our students improved in **SELF CONFIDENCE** since the start of the program year

93%

of our students improved in both **VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT** and **READING PROGRESS** since the start of the program year



99%

of volunteers tell us they would recommend the Read Aloud Mentoring Program to a friend or co-worker

95%

of volunteers agree that the Read Aloud Mentoring Program is a convenient and rewarding experience

READ ALOUD MENTORING PROGRAM

823

Students Served

894

Volunteers Engaged

127

Corporate Partners

30

Schools

FIVE YEAR IMPACT

2019 - 2023 School Years

2,952

Students Served

3,139

Volunteers Engaged

66,314

Total Sessions Held

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Greater Boston

Greater Boston's Read Aloud Mentoring Program continued to serve more students with the addition of a new school, Mildred Ave K-8 in Mattapan. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu kicked it off with style by reading aloud to a group of Mildred Ave first graders.

Across all 16 schools, in-person and virtual pairs were reunited, and new connections were formed as mentors and children shared books together. Strong mentor-student relationships were fostered and students grew into stronger readers. One teacher shared, **"I recommended her for this program as she had very little confidence in her reading ability at the start of the school year. She was able to build upon her reading skills in the classroom and then apply them and grow her love for reading with her mentor. This is something we do not necessarily always have time for in the classroom setting as we focus more on the instruction of reading, rather than the joy it can bring."**

Our Greater Boston program was able to grow due to the unwavering leadership of our Boston Board members and Board Chair Kate Beattie. We were thrilled to welcome Rebecca Rydzik from partner company, RSM, to the board this year. Growth was also made possible by our Visionary Partners: ArLight Capital, Liberty Mutual, Man Group, and TJX Companies, Inc.



Metro Detroit



The Metro Detroit Read Aloud Mentoring Program had a remarkable year, with two schools fully operating in-person, one in a hybrid model, and one completely virtual. The Program Coordinators worked closely with our partner schools, mentors, and students to strengthen programming. Our extraordinary volunteers, many of whom mentored multiple students, are the true pillars of our program. Their steadfast commitment has made a significant impact on the students, providing them with the invaluable gift of their time.

Additionally, we express our deepest gratitude to the staff of our partner schools for their unwavering support. One teacher praised the benefits of our program, stating, **"The student has greatly improved both listening and reading comprehension skills, such as understanding story elements and evaluating ideas and details."** We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the devoted teachers, administrators, and families who have joined us in sharing the joy of reading with students across Metro Detroit.

We also wish to thank our corporate partners, Huntington Bank, General Motors, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Bloomberg Philanthropies, EY, Detroit Manufacturing Systems, and DeNovo Treasury for their generous support that helped make our success possible this year. Their support has enabled us to make a positive impact in the lives of students in Metro Detroit.

Greater Miami

The Greater Miami Region continued a hybrid approach this school year, successfully launching virtual and in-person programs at both Miami area schools. Strong relationships continued to grow amongst students and their mentors and the Miami program surpassed students served from the previous year. Our dedicated Miami Program Staff supported students and mentors alike, giving all pairs the opportunity to thrive.

One teacher shared that their student had **"Awesome improvement in reading ability. Grades moved up!"**

The Miami Region was supported by our generous lead partners: Assurant, The Batchelor Foundation, Holland & Knight, and the Kirk Foundation. We were proud to raise over \$9,000 on Give Miami Day from our community of Miami supporters.

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Greater Los Angeles

Greater Los Angeles is incredibly grateful for the generous financial support and volunteer reading mentors from our corporate partners this fiscal year, in particular from our Visionary Partner, Capital Group. In addition, AEG, The Barnes Family, Kirkland & Ellis, Alston & Bird, EY, Seyfarth Shaw, and Winston & Strawn played a pivotal role in helping us serve additional students at partner schools. The PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc., the Edward A. & Ai O. Shay Family Foundation, The Winnick Family Foundation, and the Nora Roberts Foundation also awarded our region grants. This support was key to our students' success, with one teacher sharing, **"The student is more likely to pick up a book and read for pleasure now. She also volunteers to read out loud."** And, for the first time since the pandemic started, we launched an in-person Read Aloud Mentoring Program session at Vine Street Elementary in Hollywood with volunteers from Anomaly and the community.

For *National Read to a Child Day*, through a special partnership with Rebel Girls, we created 2 inspiring Remote Read Aloud videos that were made available to students at all partner schools. We were also invited to be part of the steering committee for *Reading by 9*, an initiative of the *Los Angeles Times* which aims to support parents and educators of elementary-school aged children with reading resources.

Our Greater Los Angeles Board was thrilled to welcome new members to our Regional Advisory Board – Karen Jones (The Jones Code) and David Zhao (Capital Group). And Winston & Strawn hosted our All-Programming Staff Summer Retreat at their downtown Los Angeles office. A fantastic way to connect and strategize before the school year!



Greater Hartford

Expansion at Read to a Child Greater Hartford's four school programs continued in 2022-2023. Our newest school program at Parkville Community School grew rapidly with the founding support of Gawlicki Family Foundation, while our other school programs expanded both in-person and virtual offerings, with volunteers joining our virtual ranks from companies with locations beyond Hartford such as Allied World, Pitney Bowes, Travelers, and Day Pitney. Our spring campaign, Hartford Rallies for Reading, was a great success, welcoming Hartford Steam Boiler, Cigna, the City of Hartford, Halloran Sage, Cindy & Rich Wasserman, AssuredPartners, and Improve Your Schools as sponsors. Finally, we were thrilled to receive a UNITY grant through the Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth & Recreation for the expansion of our Read Aloud Mentoring Program in the city of Hartford in the coming year.

Our relationships with our school partners continue to deepen, as teachers and administrators see firsthand the transformative power of the Read Aloud Mentoring Program. This from one of our Parkville teachers: **"I have observed how Nyalee has become so confident in her reading skills, attempting to read everything she sees, and teaching her peers some reading strategies. Thank you for this program in helping children learn to love reading. I look forward to nominating more students next school year. THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE!"**

A resounding call of appreciation for Travelers Foundation, our signature partner whose sustained support of the Read Aloud Mentoring Program has made participation possible for hundreds of students and their volunteer mentors. Warm thanks to esteemed regional funders J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Liberty Bank Foundation, SBM Charitable Foundation, and The Barnes Foundation for their investment in our work in Greater Hartford. A special note of gratitude to John Byrnes of AssuredPartners whose indefatigable work as one of our board members and volunteer mentors continues to broaden Read to a Child's horizons and make ever brighter skies for the children of Hartford.

FINANCIALS

For the Fiscal Years Ending 9/30/23 and 9/30/22

Read to a Child's FY23 financial notables include an increase in grant income, investments in program, expectation of a \$323k Employee Retention Tax Credit, and cash in line with our strategic objectives. We are grateful to have received forgiveness of our Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$250k in FY22.

Support and Revenue

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY22</u>
Contributions	\$375,257	\$404,903
Grant Income Without Donor Restrictions	773,799	694,296
Grant Income With Donor Restrictions	296,434	209,225
Special Events Income, Net	214,693	228,030
In-Kind Contributions	131,503	113,314
Other Revenue	<u>5,341</u>	<u>255</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,797,027	\$1,650,023

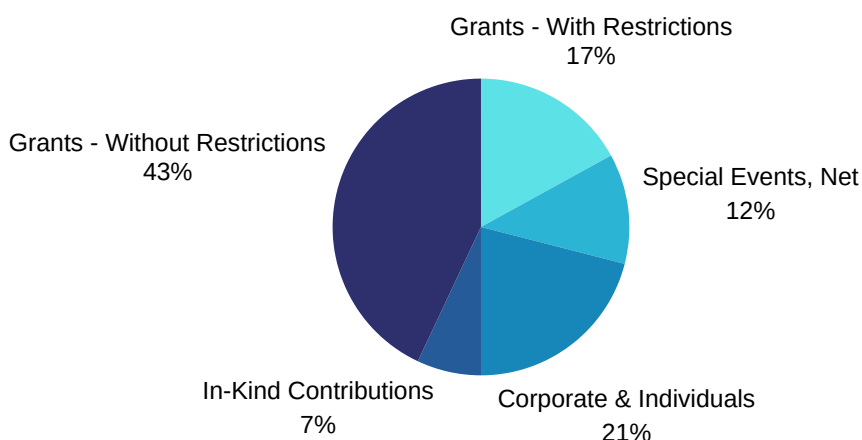
Expenses

Program Services	\$1,226,737	\$1,002,669
Management and General	124,129	120,528
Fundraising	<u>255,028</u>	<u>295,981</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,605,894	\$1,419,178
Change in Net Assets	\$191,133	\$230,845

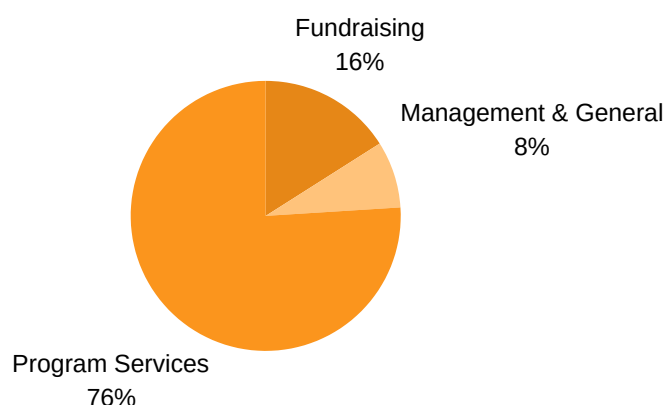
Statement of Financial Position

	<u>9/30/2023</u>	<u>9/30/2022</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$544,682	\$747,013
Other Current Assets	<u>434,578</u>	<u>26,888</u>
Total Assets	\$979,260	\$773,901
Deferred Income	\$27,500	\$25,000
Other Current Liabilities	50,184	38,458
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	605,142	501,207
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	<u>296,434</u>	<u>209,236</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$979,260	\$773,901

FY23 Support & Revenue



FY23 Expenses



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10/1/2022 - 9/30/2023

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Agero

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Keith Masterson

State Street

Nikoo Nasr

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Nancy Puleo*

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Rebecca Rydzick*

RSM

DONORS

For fiscal year ending 9/30/2023

*Company provides volunteer reading mentors

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS

\$50,000 +

ArcLight Capital Partners*
Capital Group*
Liberty Mutual
Man Group*
Pitney Bowes*
TJX*
Travelers*

\$49,999-\$25,000

Agero*
City of Hartford*
Fidelity*
Huntington Bank
PwC Charitable
Foundation, Inc.*



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\$24,999-\$10,000

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 Assurant*
 Baystate Financial*
 Beatrice Fox Auerbach
 Foundation Fund
 BJ's*
 Bloomberg Philanthropies*
 Cabot Family Charitable Trust
 Eaton Vance/Morgan Stanley*
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 EY
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\$9,999-\$5,000

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\$4,999-\$2,500

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\$2,499-\$1,000

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*Volunteer Reader/s
 †Volunteer Board Member

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\$2,499-\$1,000

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\$999-\$500

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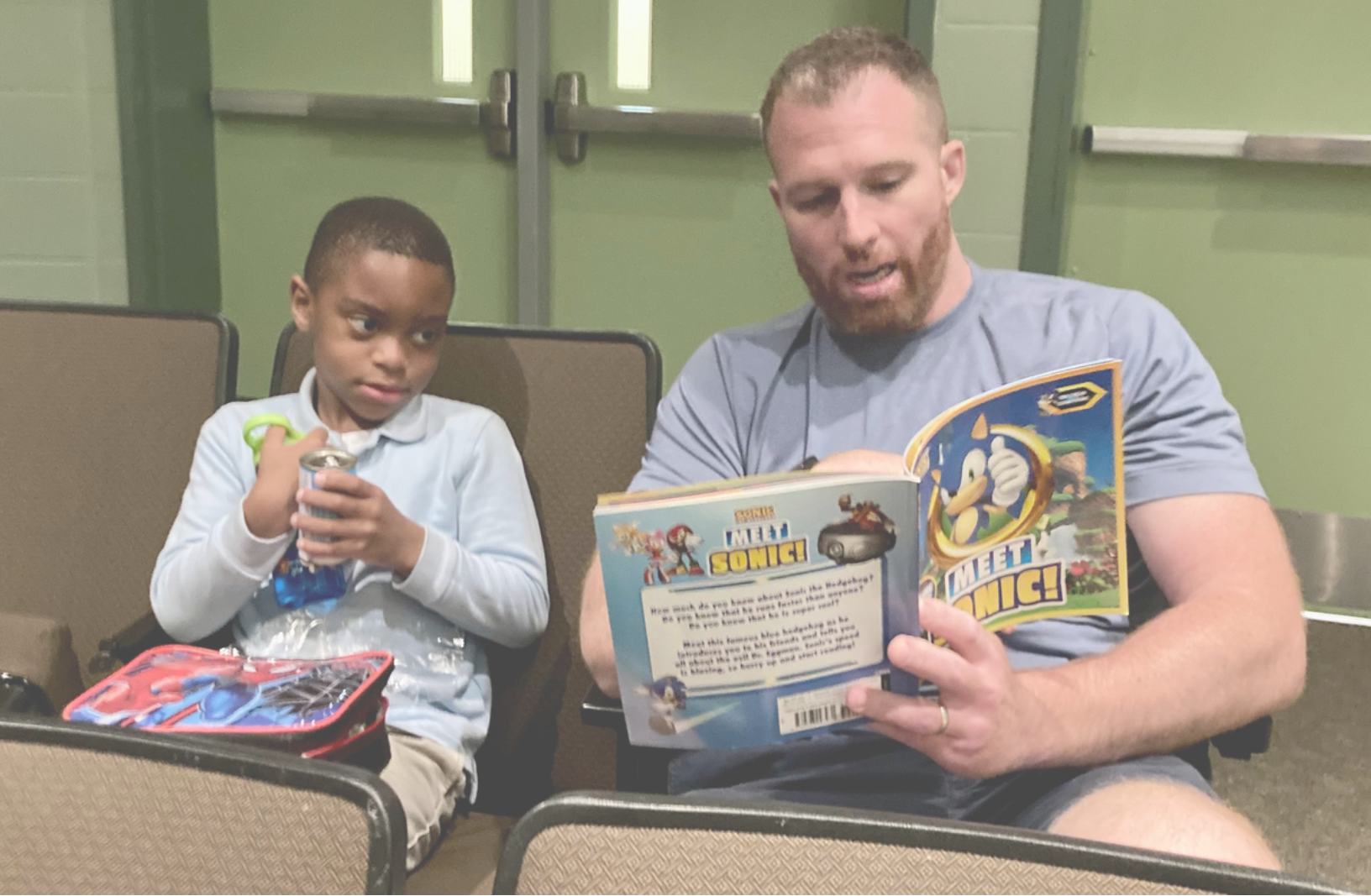
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Special thanks to JLL and Douglas Emmett for donating office space in Greater Boston and Los Angeles





“

I never want to leave! I love seeing my grown up every week and reading with her.

-Student, 2023

”

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readtoachild.org

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Read to a Child

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